

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-39, all of the claims set forth in the subject U.S. patent application, as filed, as constituted by the verified translation of PCT/DE2003/003470. Please also cancel claims 1-41 as presented under Article 19 on April 20, 2004. Further please cancel claims 1-32 filed under Article 34 on September 15, 2004. Additionally, please cancel claims 1-32 as set forth in the letter from KBA of September 30, 2004. Please add new claims 42-98 as follows.

Claims 1-41 (Cancelled)

42. (New) A former of a web-processing machine comprising:

first and second angularly converging leg areas, having surfaces adapted to act with a web to be folded;

a nose section at a convergence of said leg areas and having a nose surface;

a first coating of a micro-porous material on said surface of said leg areas and having a plurality of micro-openings of open pores of said micro-porous material for the exit of a fluid under pressure and with a mean diameter of less than 500 μm and having a first fluid permeability per unit of area; and

a second coating of a micro-porous material on said surface of said nose section and having a plurality of micro-openings of open pores of said micro-porous material for the exit of fluid under pressure and with a mean diameter of less than 500 μm and having a second fluid permeability per unit of area, said second fluid

permeability being greater than said first fluid permeability.

43. (New) A former of a web-processing machine comprising:

a former wall;

first and second angularly converging leg areas of said former wall and having surfaces adapted to act with a web to be folded;

a nose section of said former wall at a convergence of said leg areas and having a nose surface;

a first plurality of micro-perforations and having a plurality of micro-openings of micro-bores on said surfaces of said leg areas for the exit of fluid under pressure and with a mean diameter of less than 500 μm and having a first fluid permeability per unit area; and

a second plurality of micro-perforations and having a plurality of micro-openings on said surface of said nose section for the exit of a fluid under pressure and with a mean diameter of less than 500 μm and having a second fluid permeability per unit area, said second fluid permeability being greater than said first fluid permeability.

44, (New) A former of a web-processing machine comprising:

a load-bearing support body;

a leg area of said support body and having a leg area surface adapted to act with a web to be folded;

a nose section of said support body and having a nose section surface adapted to act with the web to be folded;

a first hollow space in said leg area and a second hollow space in said nose section, said first and second hollow spaces being separated from each other and charged with a fluid at different pressures;

an open pored, sinter coating through which a fluid can pass on said leg area surface and said nose section surface, said coating at least in part enclosing said first and second hollow spaces and having pores with a mean diameter between 5 and 50 μm .

45. (New) The former of claim 42 wherein said pores have a mean diameter of 5 to 50 μm .

46. (New) The former of claim 42 wherein said porous material is an open-pored sinter material.

47. (New) The former of claim 42 wherein said porous material is an open-pored sinter metal.

48. (New) The former of claim 44 wherein said porous material is an open-pored sinter metal.

49. (New) The former of claim 42 further including a load bearing support body enclosing a hollow space, said coatings being a layer on said support body.

50. (New) The former of claim 44 further including a support surface connected with said coating and having a plurality of openings adapted to supply fluid to said coating.

51. (New) The former of claim 49 further including a support surface connected with said coating and having a plurality of openings adapted to supply fluid to said coating.

52. (New) The former of claim 50 wherein said coating has a thickness between 0.05 mm and 0.3 mm.

53. (New) The former of claim 51 wherein said coating has a thickness between 0.05 mm and 0.3 mm.

54. (New) The former of claim 44 wherein said support body has a plurality of passages.

55. (New) The former of claim 49 wherein said support body has a plurality of passages.

56. (New) The former of claim 44 wherein said support body has a wall supporting said coating and having a wall thickness of greater than 3 mm.

57. (New) The former of claim 49 wherein said support body has a wall supporting said coating and having a wall thickness of greater than 3 mm.

58. (New) The former of claim 44 wherein said support body is a porous material having an air permeability greater than said micro-porous material.
59. (New) The former of claim 49 wherein said support body is a porous material having an air permeability greater than said micro-porous material.
60. (New) The former of claim 44 wherein said support body includes a flat material including said hollow space.
61. (New) The former of claim 49 wherein said support body includes a flat material including said hollow space.
62. (New) The former of claim 44 wherein in said leg area said support body is a tube provided with passages.
63. (New) The former of claim 49 wherein in said leg area said support body is a tube provided with passages.
64. (New) The former of claim 43 wherein said mean diameter is no greater than 300 μm .
65. (New) The former of claim 43 wherein a thickness of said wall is between 0.2 mm and 3.0 mm.

66. (New) A former of claim 43 wherein a hole density of said micro-openings is at least $0.2 / \text{mm}^2$.
67. (New) The former of claim 42 wherein said micro-openings allow passage of 1 to 20 standard cubic meters of air per hour.
68. (New) The former of claim 43 wherein said micro-openings allow passage of 1 to 20 standard cubic meters of air per hour.
69. (New) The former of claim 44 wherein said micro-openings allow passage of 1 to 20 standard cubic meters of air per hour.
70. (New) The former of claim 42 wherein said porous material is charged with an excess pressure of at least 1 bar.
71. (New) The former of claim 44 wherein said porous material is charged with an excess pressure of at least 1 bar.
72. (New) The former of claim 42 wherein said porous material is charged with an excess pressure of at least 4 bar.
73. (New) The former of claim 44 wherein said porous material is charged with an excess pressure of at least 4 bar.

74. (New) The former of claim 42 further including a feed line adapted to feed fluid to said former and having an interior area of less than 100 mm².

75. (New) The former of claim 43 further including a feed line adapted to feed fluid to said former and having an interior area of less than 100 mm².

76. (New) The former of claim 44 further including a feed line adapted to feed fluid to said former and having an interior area of less than 100 mm².

77. (New) The former of claim 42 wherein said micro-openings are formed in an insert releasably secured to a support on said former.

78. (New) The former of claims 43 wherein said micro-openings are formed in an insert releasably secured to a support on said former.

79. (New) The former of claims 45 wherein said micro-openings are formed in an insert releasably secured to a support on said former.

80. (New) The former of claim 44 wherein a permeability per unit of area of said nose section is different from a permeability per unit of area of said leg area.

81. (New) The former of claim 80 wherein said nose section permeability is higher than said leg area permeability.

82. (New) The former of claim 44 further including a hollow chamber adapted to supply said leg area and said nose section with fluid.

83. (New) The former of claim 43 further including a hollow chamber adapted to supply said leg area and said nose section with fluid.

84. (New) The former of claim 42 further including a first hollow chamber adapted to supply said leg area with fluid and a second hollow chamber adapted to supply said nose section with fluid.

85. (New) The former of claim 43 further including a first hollow chamber adapted to supply said leg area with fluid and a second hollow chamber adapted to supply said nose section with fluid.

86. (New) The former of claim 44 wherein said open-pored sinter coating is the same on said leg area and on said nose section.

87. (New) The former of claim 44 wherein said open-pored sinter coatings on said leg area and said nose section are different from each other.

88. (New) The former of claim 84 wherein a pressure in said first hollow chamber is different from a pressure in said second hollow chamber.

89. (New) The former of claim 85 wherein a pressure in said first hollow chamber is different from a pressure in said second hollow chamber.

90. (New) The former of claim 42 wherein an air exit rate in said leg area is between 2 to 15 standard cubic meters per m^2 and an air exit rate in said nose section is between 7 and 20 standard cubic meters per m^2 and further wherein said nose section air exit rate is greater than said leg area air exit rate.

91. (New) The former of claim 43 wherein an air exit rate in said leg area is between 2 to 15 standard cubic meters per m^2 and an air exit rate in said nose section is between 7 and 20 standard cubic meters per m^2 and further wherein said nose section an exit rate is greater than said leg area air exit rate.

92. (New) The former of claim 44 wherein an air exit rate in said leg area is between 2 to 15 standard cubic meters per m^2 and an air exit rate in said nose section is between 7 and 20 standard cubic meters per m^2 and further wherein said nose section an exit rate is greater than said leg area air exit rate.

93. (New) The former of claim 43 wherein said coating has a thickness of less than 1 mm.

94. (New) The former of claim 43 wherein said micro-pores are produced by accelerated particles.

95. (New) The former of claim 44 wherein said bores are provided by drilling with an electronic beam.

96. (New) The former of claim 43 wherein at least one wall section of said former having said micro-bores has a dirt and ink repelling finish on the surface.

97. (New) The former of claim 96 wherein said finish is chromium.

98. (New) The former of claim 97 wherein said chromium is polished to a high gloss.